

# WITHIN OUR BORDERS

Industrial Signs

Alberta Story Picture Page

Highways Laboratory

Aid to Potato Growers

VOL 5

JULY 1, 1952

No. 2

## Five New Industrial Signs Mark Significant Places

Five new signs have been erected on sites of historic and industrial significance by the Alberta Government. This brings the total of industrial signs in the Province to 11.

The story of the Alaska Highway is told on one of the new signs, erected on the east side of Highway No. 2, approximately 1½ miles north of St. Albert. Located opposite two beautifully landscaped farm homes, this sign will tell northward-bound motorists some of the main features of the building of the Alaska Highway.

Another sign, located on the south-east side of Highway No. 28 in an area where the Redwater oil field lies on both sides of the road, briefly outlines the story of the famous Redwater field. A third sign, 4½ miles west of Edson on the south side of the main highway, provides information on the important lumbering district around Edson.

Other industrial signs are located at the Frank Slide in the Crowsnest Pass area and at the St. Mary Dam near Lethbridge. The Frank Slide sign tells about the rock slide which buried the town of Frank in 1903 while the sign at the St. Mary Dam explains the significance of the dam to irrigation in southern Alberta. Other industrial signs have been erected during the past few years at Exshaw, Lethbridge, Nisku, Okotoks, Medicine Hat and Red Deer.

Six sites where picnic tables will be provided for passing tourists have been selected and the tables are being erected. Two of these tables will be at the locations of the industrial signs at Edson and the St. Mary Dam while four others will be at scenic roadside spots.

These will be located at Lundbreck Falls, on No. 3 Highway between Cowley and Frank; on the south side of the Old Man River and on Highway No. 2 north of the Fort Macleod Tourist Information Bureau; at Bowfort Creek on No. 1 Highway between Morley and Exshaw; and at the Blind Man River on No. 2 Highway between Blackfalds and Red Deer.

## Employers Compete For Skills Of Trained Technicians

Technical graduates of the Provincial Institute of Technology and Art have no difficulty finding suitable work on completion of their courses. They find that there is a great demand for the skills learned during their courses and that the competition of various employers makes it possible for them to select their positions carefully.

A. V. Roe Ltd., of Toronto, Canadian aircraft manufacturing firm, recently toured Canadian universities and technical schools seeking technical help. From their experience, the Institute of Technology has consistently provided the best trained youths for aircraft work.

This year, five graduates of the Institute's Aeronautics Department have been placed in permanent jobs with A. V. Roe Ltd., and will be working with aeronautical engineers, while five other aeronautical students have taken summer jobs with the same firm. Canadair of Montreal applied for 15 aircraft students from the Institute but the order could not be filled because there were not enough students to fill the demand.

Placements also are good from the industrial electricity course. Two students are working with Calgary Power Ltd. in substation and equipment maintenance, and two are doing residential, industrial, and commercial wiring and maintenance of electrical equipment with electrical contractors. Other students are employed in maintenance, repair and installation work for an X-ray manufacturing company, in line maintenance for the Calgary Gas Company, and in shop work with an electrical repair company.

"We can't fill one-fifth of the applications which come in for students from the radio and refrigeration course," reports W. Partin, director of the course. In a survey 27 domestic radio service companies asked for 18 more radio technicians, representing a 29 percent shortage of help in these companies. The three Calgary broadcasting companies needed two technicians, showing a 14 percent shortage in technical staff.

Radio dealers in rural centres were 12 percent short of technicians while a serious shortage of 48 percent was reported by 10 organizations employing electronics technicians in secondary operations jobs. These companies included business machines, airlines, and utilities.

Largest shortage of electronics technicians is being felt in the geophysical field. More than 60 men with electronic training could be placed immediately with geophysical parties. Such parties find it hard to keep radio men because of the hard climatic and rough living conditions. The R.C.A.F. also is seeking 50 radio technicians from the Calgary district. The survey showed a total of 151 radio technicians could be placed immediately in jobs in the Calgary district alone.

Employment opportunities also are good for graduates of the commercial wireless course. Employment is open in the fields of aircraft radio, marine, forestry service, mining and oil. The Department of Transport also is short of commercial wireless operators.

For the past seven years, 12 students have graduated each year from the wireless course. This year there were 19 students, all of whom have passed their Department of Transport examinations and have found work.

The story from the machine shop course is the same. Employers come to the students of this course offering work but there are never enough students to fill their requirements; on the average there are twice as many job openings as there are machinists to fill them. All first and second year students of this course are working at present.



With school out, school buses all over the Province are standing idle. This large group of school buses shows the extent to which school transportation in Alberta has been mechanized.



## Disease Control Services Protect Potato Crop

Alberta is known throughout North America as a producer of seed potatoes free from disease and of good quality. It has gained this position through the efforts of the Alberta Department of Agriculture, in co-operation with the Dominion Department of Agriculture, the University of Alberta and Alberta seed potato growers, to control the spread of potato disease.

One testing program designed to keep Alberta seed potatoes free from disease is carried out each winter in California. Samples of seed potatoes from Alberta are rushed to Oceanside, California, for planting early in December. This service is provided by the Field Crops Branch of the Alberta Department of Agriculture. A fee of \$5 is charged each Alberta seed potato grower availing himself of the service. This covers part of the shipping and handling costs; the Department of Agriculture pays the balance, rents the land at Oceanside, arranges for special treatment, planting and disease readings.

Another program aimed at controlling disease in potatoes is carried out at the University of Alberta under Alberta Department of Agriculture supervision. Each seed potato grower sends in 100 to 150 tubers to be numbered and tested in the greenhouses of the university. One eye is cut from each sample, planted in a flower pot, and grown in the greenhouse under conditions that are ideal for the development of any of the potato diseases. When the grower gets his samples back, he knows from the readings which seed potatoes are free from disease. These he cuts into four parts, planting

each part in a hill. These potatoes are checked again for disease in the field by an inspector of the Dominion Department of Agriculture or a plant pathologist of the University of Alberta. In this way, through constant scrutiny and selective seeding, growers can keep their seed potatoes free from disease.

The most serious disease affecting the Province's potato crop is bacterial ring rot, which is particularly prevalent in the irrigation areas of southern Alberta. Every fall, inspectors of the Alberta Department of Agriculture make surveys for ring rot in the potato growing areas. Where ring rot is found, the area is declared a pest area and growers must get planting permits from the Alberta Department of Agriculture. Growers of potatoes in which ring rot is found are required to handle their crop in a specified manner so that spread of the disease is prevented.

The best way to assure good potatoes is to have one's own seed plot which can be planted with foundation seed stock from preferred areas. Often, householders who grow only sufficient potatoes for their own consumption will buy ordinary table-stock potatoes for seed. The Alberta Department of Agriculture warns that this practice is simply an invitation for potato diseases and reduced yield. The best advice for anyone planting potatoes is to use foundation seed. In this way high quality potatoes can be raised and ring rot prevented from infecting subsequent potato crops.

The Field Crops Branch of the Department of Agriculture has for distribution a special booklet on potato growing in irrigated areas. This booklet, "A Guide to Potato Production Under Irrigation in Alberta," was prepared by the Potato Production Improvement Committee. It provides basic information for potato growers in the irrigated areas as well as information for potato growers in general.

## The Changing Face Of Alberta



(Airview Photo)

The area shown here will be alive with activity next week when the world-famed Calgary Stampede swings into action. Here North America's best cowboys try to stay on some of the fiercest bucking stock on the rodeo circuit while thousands of Albertans and visitors from all parts of Canada and the United States watch Canada's greatest outdoor pageant.

### RAT CAMPAIGN

An intense attempt to wipe out all rats which have crossed the Saskatchewan border into Alberta has commenced near Acadia Valley. N. L. Poulin Ltd., of St. Boniface, Man., a firm of pest exterminators, has been engaged by the Government of Alberta to exterminate the rats. All farmers in the Acadia Valley area are asked to co-operate with the exterminator firm so that Alberta may continue to be the only rat-free province in Canada.

## COMING EVENTS

During the next few months Alberta will be the scene of many events of provincial, national and international interest. Within Our Borders will list all COMING EVENTS from May through September. Information should be forwarded to Within Our Borders, Legislative Buildings, Edmonton.

|                |                                                    |                        |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| July 1         | Ponoka Stampede                                    | PONOKA                 |
| July 1         | Millarville Races                                  | MILLARVILLE            |
| July 2         | High River Stampede                                | HIGH RIVER             |
| July 2-3       | Stettler Stampede                                  | STETTLE                |
| July 2-5       | Coleman Stampede                                   | COLEMAN                |
| July 3-5       | Devon Oil Show                                     | DEVON                  |
| July 5         | Dairy Field Day                                    | LETHBRIDGE             |
| July 7-12      | Calgary Stampede                                   | CALGARY                |
| July 15-16     | Cardston Rodeo                                     | CARDSTON               |
| July 14-19     | Edmonton Exhibition                                | EDMONTON               |
| July 16        | Annual Celebration                                 | KILLAM                 |
| July 17-20     | Banff Indian Days                                  | BANFF                  |
| July 17-19     | Medicine Hat Stampede                              | MEDICINE HAT           |
| July 21-23     | Lloydminster Fair                                  | LLOYDMINSTER           |
| July 23        | Dog Pound Stampede                                 | DOG POUND              |
| July 23        | Gem Stampede                                       | GEM                    |
| July 23-24     | Benalto Stampede                                   | BENALTO                |
| July 23-25     | Lethbridge Fair                                    | LETHBRIDGE             |
| July 24-26     | Vermilion Fair                                     | VERMILION              |
| July 26-27     | International Peace Park Ceremony                  | WATERTON               |
| July 28-30     | Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Convention | Elks Hall<br>CALGARY   |
| July 28-30     | Royal Order of Purple                              | Legion Hall<br>CALGARY |
| July 28-30     | Vegreville Fair                                    | VEGREVILLE             |
| July 29-30     | Wetaskiwin Fair                                    | WETASKIWIN             |
| July 31-Aug. 2 | Red Deer Fair                                      | RED DEER               |

"Within Our Borders" is a publication designed to acquaint the people of the Province with the administration and services of the Alberta Government.

It is believed the many and varied services of the Government will be effective in the degree they are known and used.

Any material used is for immediate republication. All photographs used are Alberta Government Photographs unless otherwise specified.

Correspondence should be addressed to "Within Our Borders," Legislative Buildings, Edmonton.







In the photograph at left, two soils men of the Department of Highways, William Stacey (left) and Joe Warwaruk, are using sand calibration apparatus to carry out a field density test. In centre, they are shown removing soil from the new portion of the highway west of Gibbons to make a test. At right, the two men, assisted by J. A. McDonald, Highways Engineer, (centre) are making another soil test in front of one of the mobile soil testing laboratories.

### *Science Aids The Road-BUILDER*

# HIGHWAYS TESTING LABORATORY

## Soils, Asphalts And Gravels Tested For Maximum Wear; Fifteen Mobile Laboratories On Road During Summer

A vital role in the Alberta Government's construction program is the research into and testing of soils, asphalts and gravels undertaken by the Department of Highways Testing Laboratory.

The laboratory saves taxpayers thousands of dollars annually by ensuring that highways constructed in the Province will stand a maximum amount of wear and load. It also carries out research to determine the best asphalt content for highways in various areas and checks the different types of gravel deposits in Alberta.

The laboratory's work can be roughly divided into two classes—research and routine inspection. The inspection work usually keeps the teams of lab experts busy all summer, while the winter months are devoted to research.

One of the most important experiments now underway at the lab is the Marshall stability test, which enables the men to find what percentage of asphalt should be used in blacktop mixes in different areas. Each district may use different mixes because of the varying types of gravel used in the construction work.

The laboratories also carry out some valuable research during the summer months. An example of this occurred near Edson on Highway No. 16 last fall. Heavy rains had occurred in the area for most of the spring and summer so that highway workers were having difficulty in planning how thick to make the layers of base course and pavement.

The old system would have been to estimate a thickness of about six inches of base course and two inches of hard surface and hope for success. But the Highway lab was able to make two types of tests on the road to determine that sections required varying thicknesses up to 14 inches of combined surfacing.

One of the greatest headaches in the life of a highway construction worker is muskeg. This spongy, water-logged ground is found in many parts of the Province, particularly in the north, and often many tons of earth fill are necessary before a road can be completed.

Research in the muskegs of Alberta is carried out with the assistance of a cone-bearing apparatus. This device is pushed

into the muskeg and pressure readings are taken. Later, all readings from muskegs in the Province will be correlated with actual observed conditions of highways across the areas.

By this method, the officials hope to predict in the future whether a highway across a certain area would be feasible, or whether the highway fill would be continually settling into the muskeg. Another important time and money saver for the Department of Highways to be put into use this summer is a device which will assist in locating large gravel deposits below the earth's surface. This will enable crews to make use of unknown gravel deposits which lie near large construction projects.

During the summer months, most of the research work is set aside while the lab tests on construction materials.

When grading contracts are let, the construction firms are required to compact the soil on the highway bed to a certain density. When work is underway, mobile laboratories are sent to the scene and tests are made to see if the proper compacting is being done. Duplicate samples of the soil are sent to the main lab in Edmonton to permit a double check on the progress of the contractor.

In addition, the samples assist the lab in classifying the various types of soil in the Province.

When surfacing work is underway, the field labs check the quality of the work and again send samples to Edmonton. In this way, the Highways lab keeps a tab on every important highway project in the Province.

This summer is a busy one for the lab, and 15 mobile labs are on grading work and 10 on surfacing projects in the Province. This will keep about 37 men in the field all summer.

Back in the lab at Edmonton, about seven men will be kept busy checking samples from their field men and testing samples of asphalt sent by refineries. These samples are of asphalts slated for construction projects, so that the lab will know just what quality material is being used.

Although the work of this lab is known to very few outside of the construction world, it plays an important part in the expansion of Alberta's highway system.



# Scenes From 'The Alberta Story'

The photographs on this page are "shots" from the new Alberta Government color movie, "The Alberta Story."

"The Alberta Story" depicts the growth of the government services made available to the people of Alberta in recent years.

The film now is ready for distribution. Arrangements for showings can be made with the Film and Photographic Bureau, Legislative Buildings, Edmonton.



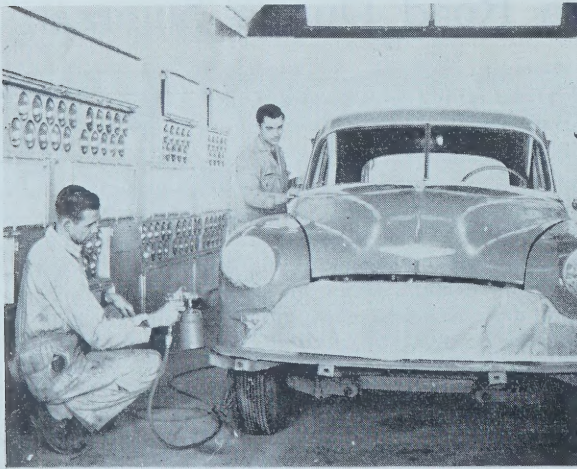
... seed problems are discussed with the D.A. ...



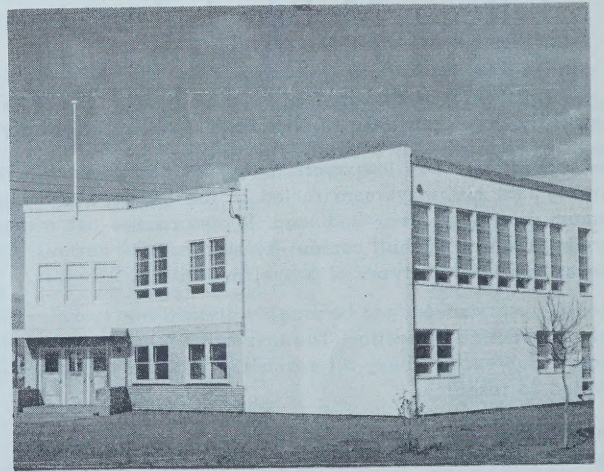
... conservation ensures lumber supplies ...



... young men learn to handle livestock ...



... apprentices train for a livelihood ...



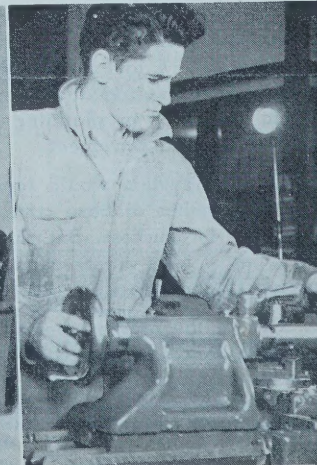
... government aid has meant many new schools ...



... rich minerals underlie vast areas ...



... cerebral palsy patients have new hope ...



... skilled labour required ...



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2025 with funding from  
Legislative Assembly of Alberta - Alberta Legislature Library

